6th February 1925]

A.—(*a*) The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to question No. 37.

(*b*) The reason for the delay is the nature of the problem itself.

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"Will the hon. the Minister for Excise take steps to see that the report is published as early as possible as some of us are very anxious about it?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"I am as eager and anxious as my hon. Friend opposite in the matter."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"That is not shown in action. I want to know whether the hon. the Minister is going to do something at least now in this matter?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"The Advisory Committee is making elaborate enquiries and the matter has to be considered very carefully."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"There is no evidence to show that the Committee evince any interest in its work."

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"Crores of rupees of revenue are involved in this matter and as such it must necessarily occupy a long time."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"May I know how many times the Committee met and what it did?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"The whole thing was answered once. If my hon. Friend wants me to repeat the same again, I shall give him the necessary information later."

Prohibition of drink in the Nilgiri district.

*172 *Q.*—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) the arrangements made to help the Badagas and other hill tribes in the Nilgiris against the dangers of drink;

(*b*) the result of the experiment so far and the amount of loss of revenue, if any;

(*c*) whether the Government received a petition from the Nilgiris Temperance Federation that complete prohibition may be adopted in that district on the ground that no effort to help the people of that district would be fully successful unless prohibition is extended to all classes without any distinction; and

(*d*) whether Government intend to take any action on this petition and, if so, to what extent?

A.—(*a*) The attention of the hon. Member is drawn to paragraph 44 of the Excise Administration Report for 1923–24 placed on Editors' Table with G.O. No. 1836, Revenue, dated 27th November 1924.

(*b*) The experiment has not been in force for sufficiently long time to judge its results.

There was a fall in rentals of Rs. 78,120 under arrack and Rs. 83,160 under beer in 1924–25 as compared with 1923–24. It is not possible to estimate how much of this is due to the experiment.

(c) & (d) The attention of the hon. Member is drawn to the answer to question No. 38.

FURTHER SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS IN RESPECT OF QUESTION No. 161—*vide* page 359 *supra*.

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" May I have your permission to make a further supplementary answer with reference to question No. 161 in connexion with the convicts employed in certain jails doing scavenging work ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Yes."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" The hon. Member who asked question No. 161 referred us to the Jail Manual which was not available and, in quoting it, he gave the House to understand that a certain section in the Manual provided that members of the depressed classes, whether or not they do menial services as part of their ordinary avocations, could be compelled to do such service in jail and could be punished if they did not do that work. I have since been able to get a copy of the rules and I find that rule 387 contains no direction of that sort. The rule says :

'In allotting labour reasonable allowance shall be made for caste prejudice, e.g., no Brahman or caste Hindu shall be employed in chuckler's work. Care shall however be taken that caste prejudice is not made an excuse for avoiding heavy forms of labour."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" I should like to point out that I read that section very well and in fact there was a slip in it and I do not find that slip read now by the hon. the Home Member. In that slip it was mentioned if members of scavenging classes are not available to do scavenging work, the members of the other depressed classes are bound to do that work. It was so mentioned by the Government themselves."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I made inquiries whether there was any correction slip and I find there was none. The slip, I think, must have been in my hon. Friend's memory."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" May I, with your permission, put a supplementary question ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I understand the hon. Member was in his place when the question was being read and it was open to him to put a supplementary question then only, but he did not do so."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" It was for that very reason that I asked for your permission. It will not take a long time."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" It is not a very serious matter if I allow a supplementary question to be put now, but I am afraid it will be a bad precedent. However, the hon. Member had better put his supplemental question as a fresh question."